

***Palaeothele*, replacement name for the fossil mesothele spider *Eothele* Selden non Rowell**

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The name *Eothele* was proposed by Selden (1996: 586) for the oldest, and only known fossil, mesothele genus, with type species *E. montceauensis*, of Upper Carboniferous (Stephanian) age from Montceau-les-Mines, France. I am grateful to J. K. Page of Biosis, UK, for alerting me to the fact that the generic name is a junior homonym, having been given to a Cambrian inarticulate brachiopod by Rowell (1980: 17).

To replace the homonym *Eothele* Selden, I propose *Palaeothele* nom. nov. (gender feminine), derived from the Greek words *palaios*, meaning "ancient", because of

the great antiquity of the fossil, and *thele*, meaning "nipple", a common suffix for mesothele and mygalomorph spider generic names.

I am also grateful to Dr Page for advising that Biosis has a facility on the World Wide Web: "Index to Organism Names", at the internet address "<http://www.york.biosis.org/triton/nameind.htm>". This is a searchable index to all taxonomic names listed in the Zoological Record, from volume 115 up to the most recently published volume, and can be used to check prior publication of any new names.

References

- ROWELL, A. J. 1980: Inarticulate brachiopods of the Lower and Middle Cambrian Pioche Shale of the Pioche district, Nevada. *Paleont. Contr. Univ. Kans.* **98**: 1–34.
- SELDEN, P. A. 1996: First fossil mesothele spider, from the Carboniferous of France. *Revue suisse Zool.* vol. hors série **2**: 585–596.